

REMARKS

Claims 3-13 and 15-32 are presented for consideration, with Claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 20, 23 and 24 being independent.

The independent claims have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art.

All of the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Webb '135 in view of Yang '412. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 of Applicant's invention relates to a remote control method for controlling a remotely controllable apparatus from an external device connected to the remotely controllable apparatus, wherein the apparatus has a control panel for specifying a processing operation and a reader for reading an image of a document, and which is operated in accordance with an indication from the control panel and/or an externally supplied command. The method includes the steps of detecting that the document has been set to the reader, and in response to detecting the document, displaying, on the external device, a virtual control panel for instructing the reader to perform a reading operation of the document. Additional steps include generating a command of the remotely controllable apparatus corresponding to an operation of the virtual control panel, and supplying the generated command to the remotely controllable apparatus.

Independent Claims 4, 13, 17, 20 and 23 have been amended along the same lines as Claim 3 to recite that, in response to detecting that a document has been set, displaying on a display unit a virtual control panel for instructing the reader to perform a reading operation of the document.

In Claim 24, a control method includes the steps of receiving a signal indicating that the document has been sent to an image reading device, and in response to the

signal, displaying a control panel for instructing a reader to perform a reading operation of the document set in the image reading device. A command for instructing is transmitted to the image reading device based on manipulation of the displayed control panel.

In accordance with Applicant's invention, an efficient and high performance operation of an apparatus can be remotely controlled.

The Webb patent relates to a host computer in communication with one or more printers. With reference to Figure 1, the host computer 11 and printer 16 are connected to each other, with an operator panel 35 provided on the printer, and a replica of the panel provided at the host 11 at dialog box 63.

The secondary citation to Yang relates to an automatic document sensing apparatus and method for use in an optical scanner. In Yang, scanner optics capable of reading lines of data on a document include mirrors 5, 6, 7, a lens and/or filter 8, and a charge coupled device 4.

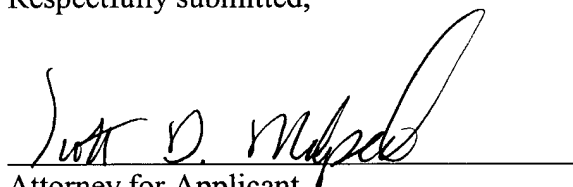
Even assuming, arguendo, the patents to Webb and Yang could have been combined as proposed in the Office Action, it is submitted that such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. In Webb, various errors relating to maintenance, such as paper jam, can be detected. Yang discloses a document sensing apparatus more suitable for use in scanners requiring manual document positioning than document sensors used with automatic feed mechanisms. Neither reference, however, detects that a document has been set and, in response to this detection, displays a virtual control panel for instructing a reader to perform a reading operation of the document. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 23 and 24 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent claims 5-12 , 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 25-32 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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